

Application No.: 09/538,996

Docket No.: JCLA5261

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Claims 1-12 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernasconi et al., USPN 6,233,063, in view of Miamoto Junzo, Patent No. JP361026039A. Claims 3, 6, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernasconi et al., USPN 6,233,063, in view of Takase et al., USPN 5,463,229. Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimers. New claims 13-16 have been added. Applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced with new added claims 13-16. Claims 3-9, 12-16 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of the rejection to the said pending claims is respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicants' Invention

The Applicants' invention is directed to an installation for increasing the scanning range along the axial direction of the light source. The installation includes a light source and a transparent glass panel. The light source provides a light beam necessary for scanning a

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document. The transparent glass panel has a coating thereon for lowering light transparency near the mid-portion of the light axis relative to either end.

Response to Rejection Under USC 103(a)

Claim 3, 6, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernasconi et al., USPN 6,233,063, in view of Takase et al., USPN 5,463,229. The rejections are respectfully traversed below.

In the rejection of claims 3 and 12 of the present invention, the Examiner opined that the transparent insulation layer 53 in the disclosure of prior art in Takase et al. effectively teaches the feature of the claims. However, the unique feature of claims 3 and 12 of the present invention is a coating formed using a single layer of coating material, but having variable thickness across the transparent glass panel. The teachings of Takase et al. teaches, rather, a transparent insulation layer provided in a manner to cover the shading layer and slit and a plurality of light receiving devices. The transparent insulation layer of Takase et al. serves to provide a connecting cover and an insulation layer. Whereas the single coating layer serves to evenly conduct light through the glass panel for the improved scanning of documents.

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Furthermore, the teachings from Takase et al., FIG 1, clearly shows multiple layers, whereas the unique feature of claims 3 and 12 is that only one layer of coating is necessary. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to be able to reduce the number of layers and alter and combine the purposes of the transparent layers from the teachings of Takase et al. to achieve the feature of said claims. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, claims 3 and 12 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the original base claims and hence are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 6 teaches a second transparent glass panel, which is not within the teachings of Bernasconi et al. nor Takase et al. The Office Action cited Takase et al. as disclosing "an image input terminal with transparent conductive layer 57 as illustrated in FIG 1". The transparent conductive layer is not a transparent glass panel and more importantly a second transparent glass panel. There is no mentioning of a second transparent conductive layer nor or a second transparent conductive layer within the teachings of Takase et al.

Furthermore, the advantages and unique effects stemming from the insertion of the second glass panel would not have been obvious for one with ordinary skills in the art at the time of the

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invention to replace a transparent conductive layer with a second glass panel as suggested by the opinion of the Office Action.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection to claim 6. In addition, claim 6 is now a dependent claim of once amended independent claim 3, rather than cancelled claim 1.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernasconi et al., USPN 6,233,063, in view of Miamoto Junzo, Patent No. JP361026039A. With the amendment to claims 4 and 5, Applicants assert that said claims are now further limitations upon once amended independent claim 3. Therefore claims 4 and 5 should also be in condition for allowance.

Response to Objection

The Office Action objected to claims 7-9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allow said claims if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No amendments have been made to claims 7-9 since Applicants believe that with the amendments to claims 3-6, the rejection to claims 7-9 should now be moot. Reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

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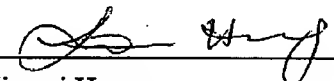
CONCLUSION

For at least the forgoing reasons, it is believed that remaining pending claims 3-12 and newly added claims 13-16 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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